Slovenia has been a donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA) since 2004. In 2007, funds earmarked for development aid totalled EUR 39,523,567 or 0.12% of Gross National Income (GNI).

In compliance with its international commitments, Slovenia will continue the efforts to increase development aid with a view to allocating 0.17% of its GNI by 2010 and 0.33% by 2015.

Slovenia channels a large portion of its Official Development Assistance through international organisations and institutions operating in this field. In 2007, multilateral aid totalled EUR 22,143,563 or 56% of all Official Development Assistance. Slovenia contributes more than four fifths of this amount, i.e. EUR 18.7 million, to EU development programmes and the remainder particularly to programmes and agencies operating within the UN system. Bilateral aid is a very important element of Slovenia’s development cooperation, as it relates to programmes and projects carried out mostly by Slovenian development institutions. In 2007, Slovenia earmarked EUR 14,452,324 for financing bilateral projects in selected recipient countries, which amounted to more than a third of Slovenia’s entire development aid for last year.

In regional terms, a larger share of bilateral aid was channelled to selected priority countries in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe, with which the Slovenian government had concluded bilateral agreements on development cooperation and technical assistance. These countries received aid totalling EUR 8,777,756 or 61% of Slovenia’s entire bilateral aid in 2007. These regions are followed by the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, and South America.

A public tender for co-financing bilateral development aid projects in the areas of local self-government and regional development was published for the first time in 2008. The tender supports the inclusion of regional institutions in global activities of the fight against poverty. The local communities’ added value is particularly evident in areas which are related to local economic development in the Western Balkan countries and their EU accession processes.

www.mzz.gov.si, www.svlr.gov.si/info.mzz@gov.si, dimitrij.pur@gov.si
The Centre for European Perspective (CEP) is an innovative project platform generating functional knowledge and bringing together good practices to actively support the European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes. The Centre for European Perspective is fully committed to developing the European perspective for European Union candidate countries, potential candidate countries, and countries of the New Neighbourhood Policy by implementing high-standard demand-and-needs driven projects. The implementation of projects for countries of South-Eastern Europe is our current priority with no prejudice to projects in other regions.

The Centre for European Perspective is an initiative of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to take an active part in promoting global security, enlargement of the European Union, socio-economic development, and good governance. The initiative unites Slovenian and foreign experts in their efforts to attain these goals. The beneficiaries of our projects are countries and their governments, regional and local governments, civil societies, and the private sector.

Through tailor-made educational and training programmes, study visits, workshops, roundtables, conferences, as well as research and analysis, we empower and support our partners in their European and/or Atlantic integration processes. The Centre for European Perspective also sets up special task force groups offering consulting services for the development of various projects. Project activities are designed on the Centre’s own initiative or upon request from partner or target countries. They foster positive dialogue between countries, cultures, and peoples and as such make the intercultural dialogue not only our commitment but our philosophy.

www.cep.si / info@cep.si

In the framework of development assistance, the Foundation “Together” managed to establish several counselling centres for children, adolescents and parents with local partners. The counselling centres are located in Bosnia, Kosovo and Serbia and focus on communities. By training local experts and volunteers, they provide extra-institutional integrated support to children, adolescents and families. The majority of activities by the counselling centres focuses on field work – in schools in rural areas and NGOs – aimed at making expert knowledge available also to children who cannot visit these centres. Due to the lack of jobs in the mental health area, counselling centres are also providers of psychosocial education in their respective regions. They are modelled on the Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents in Ljubljana.

They provide assistance and counselling to children and adolescents who come voluntarily and have specific learning, emotional and behaviour problems as well as psychosomatic, psychological and psychosocial problems. The work and activities of counselling centres are multidisciplinary, since they include experts in various areas: paediatricians, psychologists, defectologists, social workers, special pedagogues as well as associates from the areas of sport, culture and music.

Successful cooperation with local authorities and open possibilities for further cooperation show that projects were based on actual needs of local communities. There are realistic possibilities that the sustainability of projects in recipient countries will be eventually ensured, which is also the final objective of these development projects.

www.together-foundation.si / info@together-foundation.si
The International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) is a humanitarian, non-profit organization established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, which is devoted to eradication of landmines and their impact in SE Europe and other mine-affected regions in the world. Today, there are 82 mine affected countries and areas in the world facing mine threat. Mine Action, especially humanitarian demining component, is one of the vital preconditions for post-conflict rehabilitation and development as well as long-term stability of mine affected areas. Mines represent one of the most significant problems for international and local communities in terms of security, humanitarian issues, environment, the economy, and development. This is evident from the large number of innocent civilian casualties, the loss of livestock and arable land, limited production and trade, mounting distrust and intolerance, and poor general health of the population as a result of constant exposure to fear.

ITF is present with its activities in 12 mine affected countries and currently supports mine action activities in SEE (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and UNMIK/Kosovo) and other mine affected countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lebanon, and Tajikistan). ITF has also implemented projects in Cyprus and Afghanistan.

www.itf-fund.si / ljubljana@itf-fund.si

SLOGA is a platform of nongovernmental and non-profit organisations active in the area of development cooperation, global education and humanitarian assistance. The platform is aimed at integrating and strengthening the partnership of Slovenian NGOs for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance (NGDOs) which operate in developing countries and/or raise awareness of the uneven distribution of world wealth and the consequent importance of global solidarity and interdependence among the Slovenian and European public.

SLOGA was established in December 2005 and it became a full member of the European platform for development cooperation – CONCORD in 2006 as the 23rd national platform. It took over the Project of presiding over the Slovenian NGDOs in 2008 “You too! are part of this world” and thus became a full member of the European network Eurostep. With the assistance of Concord, Trialog and Eurostep, SLOGA established close cooperation with other European national platforms in the area of development cooperation.

SLOGA stimulates a debate on the challenges of the Slovenian NGDOs which are active in the Western Balkans, the Caucasus and various African states (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Congo, Mali, Madagascar, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, etc.) within the cooperation with representatives of municipalities and local communities in the above regions. Representatives of Slovenian municipalities and local communities also take part in cooperation which takes place in the following areas: gender equality, climate change, intergenerational cooperation, sustainable development and global education, monitoring effectiveness of ODA, policy by various African countries, European neighbourhood policy, peaceful resolution of disputes and other development challenges.

www.sloga-platform.org , www.tuditi.si / info@sloga-platform.org
The Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF) was founded in 2001 in the framework of the Stability Pact for South East Europe by the Slovenian government as a joint initiative of the Ministries of Finance of the countries in the region. Its mandate was to address an urgent need for capacity building in public financial management in the countries of South-Eastern Europe.

Members of the CEF include: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia. Through the PEM PAL (Public Expenditure Management Peer Assisted Learning) programme, the CEF is also present in a number of other East European and Central Asian countries.

The regional approach recognizes similar background of participating countries and ensures that the programme is tailored to their specific needs. In designing training programmes and developing technical assistance, the CEF closely follows reform developments and related needs of member countries as well as the latest trends and standards in public financial management.

The CEF activities are divided into four groups:
1. Permanent Programmes that include introductory, certification and specialization programmes aimed at achieving sustainable training in the areas of public finance that require special attention;
2. Policy and Research that support agenda setting and policy-making in member countries by promoting new ideas in the field of public financial management and encouraging exchange of experience;
3. Short Programmes that satisfy immediate training needs of the region; and
4. Technical Assistance that targets specific needs in specific member countries.

www.cef-see.org / info@cef-see.org

Umanotera, the Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development, transforms the principles of sustainable development into a way of life by informing citizens of good practices and increasing the availability of good products in the society. It sees sustainable development as a dynamic equilibrium between man and Nature enabling social justice and intergenerational solidarity. Through environmental projects it informs and raises awareness, changes public opinion, formulates incentives, launches public debates by confronting different opinions, and points to environmental issues.

Through its fair trade project, Umanotera promotes the autonomy of producers from the South, while at the same time raising awareness of consumers from the North. The above practices strengthen global partnership cooperation, based on transparency and mutual respect. They represent a permanent link between North and South which is intensified by promoting local sustainable economy, creativity, and traditional craft on the one hand, and by educating and getting to know other cultures through products and transferring the ethics of intercultural cooperation in the sphere of the economy on the other.

In practice, Umanotera’s sustainable policy is exercised in the form of the first and only fair trade shop in Slovenia, providing each person with the opportunity to contribute to a better world by buying products with less adverse impact on the environment and humanity.

www.umanotera.org / info@umanotera.org
Since its establishment, Slovene Philanthropy (Slovenska filantropija) has been extending good practices of introducing voluntary work in schools and other public institutions from Slovenia to the countries in the Balkans. Our work is based primarily on the exchange of good practices in the training of mentors who lead volunteers.

Part of our development projects is focused on assistance to Africa. Together with partner organisations from Europe and Africa we are trying to inform potential donors, mainly within the European Union, about the hardships of older people in Africa who are often ignored when allocating financial and other assistance to the people of Africa. Their position is especially hard, since due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic they have to take over the role of caregivers to their grandchildren and relatives whose parents have died. Apart from drawing attention to the above situation, we are also making a contribution by training leaders of local African organisations working with and for the elderly.

Another part of our development programmes includes psychosocial assistance to children in post-conflict areas. Programmes are being carried out in the Balkans and the Caucasus. Their main goal is providing training for teachers who work with traumatised children.

www.filantropija.org / info@filantropija.org

UNICEF is the only organisation within the UN with an exclusive focus on children, care for their survival, protection and development. In its early stages it offered urgent assistance to nearly seven million children in the demolished Europe (after the Second World War). After 1950, it expanded its assistance to developing countries and established long-term development programmes. Today, UNICEF provides children in 156 countries with basic health care, drinking water and sanitary facilities, appropriate diet, education and protection in specifically adverse conditions. UNICEF offices (currently 156) operate in developing countries where UNICEF directly implements its programmes, and national committees (37) in the form of NGOs are present in developed countries, including Slovenia.

Its permanent presence in the field and orientation towards long-term development programmes, which are allocated 2/5 of all funds, is important. It also responds to crisis situations, such as natural disasters and military conflicts, and due to its effective logistics (warehouse in Copenhagen) and permanent presence it is able to provide assistance in 24 hours in any part of the world, whereby needs of the children are given particular attention. Emergency aid programmes comprise 1/5 of all resources.

UNICEF set itself five priorities for the 2006–2009 period:

1. Young child survival and development (under 5 years of age)
2. Protection of particularly vulnerable children
3. Ensuring basic education to all children, with special emphasis on including girls in education – gender equality
4. Fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic and protecting children against its consequences
5. Policy advocacy and development of partnerships for children’s rights.

www.unicef.si / info@unicef.si
In the field of international development aid, the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia (SOS) actively participates in the NALAS network, which brings together national associations of local authorities, municipalities, cities, and towns from Western Balkan countries, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and the Marmara region in Turkey. The main task of SOS in this project is to contribute to institution building and to raise the quality of their work at the local level. Our experts participate in a local project providing support to mayors and other municipal employees in their efforts to improve capacities and raise the quality of performance for members of particular municipalities, which also helps improve living conditions in certain local environments.

SOS cooperates with other associations of local authorities with a view to strengthening the structure and role of associations of municipalities themselves in particular states. SOS also actively participates in working groups covering the following fields:

- Fiscal decentralization and the strengthening of financial autonomy of municipalities;
- Urban planning and urban development at the local level, which is one of the key conditions for effective economic development;
- Energy efficiency and sustainable development of municipalities.

Within the working group on urban planning and the quality use of space, SOS is the leading partner in the consortium of national associations representing nine countries from the Western Balkans and partly from Eastern Europe.

SOS wishes to contribute to achieving the goals of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of international development cooperation, particularly with regard to sustainable development and good governance at all levels of government, as well as the goals of strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation with states in the framework of priority geographic areas for development cooperation of Slovenia. In 2008, SOS signed bilateral cooperation agreements with municipalities in Macedonia and Serbia; the signing of these agreements provides the basis for carrying out future development aid projects in the field of local self-government.

www.skupnostobcin.si / info@skupnostobcin.si

The Povod association was established in 2001 by a group of young enthusiasts from Ptuj, who wanted to make a difference in their local community. Our major annual project is a street festival called “Ptuj – odprto mesto” (Ptuj – Open City).

The association’s work is much more than just the organization of various cultural events. The aim is to establish links and cooperate with local educational and cultural organizations and individuals for joint presentation and promotion. The organization, development and the actual festival is carried out by local people, which is the best way to promote active participation in our local community. The integration of the tools of street animation in the work with youngsters and other people is amazingly attractive. Street animation and its tools may be used as a method to establish contact with the people in the street. With this, the basic contact for communication is set and you get a response and public opinion from people on the subjects in focus. The basic and very important purpose of this is interaction. We encourage and develop everyone’s creativity. We organize these workshops and carry out activities also in other places in both Slovenia and abroad, as we cooperate with various other NGOs from Slovenia and abroad.
We are organizing seminars and workshops on this topic for people working with the young and for youngsters. Between 2005 and 2007, we coordinated the programme for developing youth participation in the Western Balkans in cooperation with the cities of Varaždin in Croatia, Bitola in Macedonia, and Novi Sad in Serbia. From 2006 to 2008, we have presented ourselves in the West Bank territory, establishing especially close ties with the municipality of Jericho. This is the oldest city in the world and as such has a natural connection with Ptuj, the oldest city in Slovenia. In 2008, we have carried out a capacity building programme for people working with the young in China, Vietnam, and Turkey.

www.odprtomesto.com / povod@triera.net

Ljubljana, with a population of 276,000, is ideally situated in a broad basin between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, at the confluence of the Sava and Ljublanica rivers. It is a dynamic city uniquely combining the old and the new. The old city centre is a picturesque blend of Medieval, Baroque and Art Nouveau masterpieces combined with the original character given to the city by the famous architect Jože Plečnik. In the past, city has developed numerous ties with cities throughout Europe – in particular with those in South-Eastern Europe. So, we developed fruitful partnerships, exchanging our experience in urban planning, public transport, local administration as well as in the field of cultural exchange, education, sports…

Last May, Ljubljana organised a Mayors’ conference of European Capitals (including those from the countries of South-Eastern Europe). Participants adopted an important document on intercultural dialogue and active coexistence. We strongly believe that the future of Europe is closely related to the practical policies of the local government – in particular with regard to raising awareness of the need for mutual respect and cooperation between different beliefs, religions, and cultures. Ljubljana is not only a firm advocate of these principles but also implements them in everyday practice. And this is one of the reasons why our city – as Mayor Zoran Janković stressed on a number of occasions – may be proud of its name. Ljubljana means “to be beloved”. And those who visited it will certainly agree that our city has an appropriate name.

www.ljubljana.si / glavna.pisarna@ljubljana.si

Caritas Slovenia (Slovenska karitas) is a charitable organisation founded in 1990. In addition to implementing social welfare programmes in Slovenia, it is active internationally. In 1995 it became a full member of Caritas Europe and Caritas Internationalis. Its priority areas for development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa include: health, malaria prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, water supply, education, care for orphans, handicapped children and youth, vocational training, and local capacity building. Caritas Slovenia cooperates with local NGOs in developing countries, mostly with local Caritas organisations and Slovenian missionaries engaged in education and health. Good knowledge of the local situation and needs and involving the local community are essential for achieving sustainable development.

International projects led by Caritas Slovenia in cooperation with local communities in Sub-Saharan Africa include: Improving the living conditions of children on their own in the region of Kibungo
Rwanda), Renovation works at the Mukungu Health Centre (Rwanda), Supporting primary education in Ndola (Zambia), Building capacities for malaria prevention in the Mumbwa district (Zambia), Water supply in Ruzo (Burundi), Construction of a maternity hospital in Ruzo (Burundi), Extension of the Rwisabi Health Centre (Burundi), Rehabilitation centre for handicapped children and youth in Serowe (Botswana), Providing primary education in the Butwe village (Burundi), HIV/AIDS awareness-raising and prevention and inclusion of AIDS patients in the society in the Copperbelt area of Zambia. Awareness raising projects in Slovenia include: “For the Heart of Africa”, Development education and awareness raising about the impact of climate change upon those living in developing countries, HIV/AIDS and its impact on developing societies and development processes in Africa.

www.karitas.si / info@karitas.si